

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/822,943

Examiner

Daniel Swerdlow

Applicant(s)

SETO, CHUK

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 30 March 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 3/30/01, 5/16/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark Svat, Reg. No. 34,261 on 3 September 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 3: Delete the word "a" in the first line.

Drawings

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

In Fig. 1: Add line for output of amplifier 3, connected to line VX as shown on the last page of this action.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. Regarding Claim 1, US Patent 4,514,595 to Rosenbaum et al. discloses a line feed circuit for a subscriber loop (i.e., a line circuit for providing loopfeed current to a subscriber's line) (Fig.

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3, column 1, lines 4-10) comprising: tip and ring voltage amplifiers (i.e., driver circuitry) (Figs. 1 and 3, reference 20, 40; column 2, lines 66-68) that provide energizing direct current (i.e., drive the subscriber's line with loopfeed current); a differential amplifier (Fig. 3, reference 71; column 5, lines 43-50) that is responsive to potential differences across tip and ring voltage taps (i.e., an input amplifier connected to the subscriber's line) and provides a supervision signal, indicating an off-hook condition when loop current exceeds a threshold set by a reference voltage offset (Fig. 3, reference V1; column 5, lines 49-53) (i.e., sensing and comparing current flowing in the line with a predetermined constant current and generating a signal proportional to any difference therebetween). Note that the input amplifier configuration disclosed by applicant in Fig. 1 is identical to the configuration disclosed in Fig. 3 in Rosenbaum with the sole exception that in Rosenbaum the offset is applied to the non-inverting input, a difference that results only in a change of the polarity of the amplifier output signal. Rosenbaum further discloses an amplifier configured with associated components to act as an integrator (Fig. 3, reference 76, 78, 79; column 5, lines 63-66) that receives the output of the differential amplifier that corresponds to the input amplifier claimed and controls the tip and ring voltage amplifiers (i.e., driver circuitry) with a variable voltage. However, the output of the integrating amplifier disclosed in Rosenbaum symmetrically controls the tip and ring drivers and as such fails to disclose "controlling said driver circuitry with a variable voltage so as to maintain constant loopfeed current to said subscriber's line and in the event said error signal exceeds said predetermined amount generating a constant saturation voltage for controlling said driver circuit to provide a constant voltage feed to said subscriber's line". Because the prior art neither anticipates nor makes obvious this limitation, Claim 1 is allowable.

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5. Claims 2 through 5 are allowable due to dependence from Claim 1.

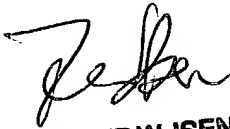
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Swerdlow whose telephone number is 703-305-4088. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forrester Isen can be reached on 703-305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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FORESTER W. ISEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER